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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: September 15, 1964

SUBJECT: Second Arab Summit Conference; Yemen; French-Israeli Relations

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Henri Ourmet, Second Secretary, French Embassy
NE - Mr. Harrison M. Symmes, Deputy Director
NE - H. H. Stackhouse, OIC, Arab-Israel Affairs

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Mr. Ourmet requested Mr. Symmes to summarize for him the USG's reaction to the Second Arab Summit Conference. Mr. Symmes gave him our assessment, emphasizing it was tentative and subject to revision in the light of reports we would be receiving from our Embassies after they had had an opportunity to discuss the conference with the participants. Summing up, Mr. Symmes said that although there were some aspects of the conference that were not welcome from our point of view, on the whole it had not turned out as badly as it might have and there was even some basis for a cautious optimism.

In answer to Mr. Ourmet's questions, Mr. Symmes said that we were most pleased to see the Faisal-Nasser communique. We felt this was a necessary piece of statesmanship to make effective the disengagement agreement between Saudi Arabia and the UAR in the Yemen. Mr. Ourmet was quite curious to know whether we had any details about the new agreement. He was informed that we did not and that it was our impression that the operative details remained to be worked out.

Mr. Symmes noted that the visit of high Israeli military officers and the Israeli Deputy Defense Minister to Paris so soon after the Summit Conference would surely be noticed and commented on by the Arab press. He asked whether Mr. Ourmet had any information about the Israeli visit. Mr. Ourmet said he did not.

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